

**Testimony of
Representative Rick Outman (R-Six Lakes)**

**Before the Committee on Redistricting and Elections
Hearing on HB 5119
Michigan House of Representatives
Tuesday, January 17, 2012**

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee-

First, thank you for taking up this important piece of legislation. This bill makes it easier for local governments to ensure that they have an ample amount of qualified poll workers for elections, regardless of their residency. In a largely rural area such as my district, this is an important change to allow for efficient, fair, and accurate elections. The change would apply statewide, but certainly from my perspective this is a needed change to current law for districts such as the 70th.

The bill strikes the in-county residence requirement for "precinct election inspector[s]" and simply requires that individuals seeking an appointment must be a "qualified and registered elector of THIS STATE." The remainder of the statute is unchanged and poll workers are still required to submit applications to the county in which they seek appointment.

My bill will ensure that local units of government across Michigan will be in a position to administer fair and accurate elections by providing help where help is needed. It is currently supported by the Michigan Association of County Clerks and the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

Thank you again for taking up this bill and for allowing me to provide this testimony. I would ask for your support for HB 5119.

I also have with me, Kristen Millard, who can provide greater detail on the need for HB 5119.

After their testimony, I am happy to answer any questions you might have that are not answered by the expert testimony from my guests.